

# THE TACTICAL SPACE TIGER TEAM: PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE

By LTC James E. Rozzi and Robert N. Zaza

**S**ince 2004, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) has had the responsibility to train, field, equip and sustain the Space Support Elements of the Modular Divisions. In response to Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Peter Schoomaker's decision to begin transformation to Modular Divisions earlier than originally planned, SMDC/ARSTRAT formed the Space Support Element Tiger Team in March 2004 from elements of the Future Warfare Center Directorate of Combat Developments and the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab — West. First led by LTC Richard Dow, the Space Support Element Tiger Team fielded Space Support Enhancement Toolsets (SSETs) to four Active Component Divisions, trained four Active Component Space Support Elements, and trained the element leader for the 35th Infantry Division (Kansas Army National Guard).

In March 2006, the Space Support Element Tiger Team evolved into the Tactical Space Tiger Team, and it has sought to improve and diversify Tactical Space training opportunities and open them not only to the Space Support Elements and Corps Space Operations Officers, but to the Army Space Support Teams and other formations organic to SMDC/ARSTRAT as well. In the future, the Tactical Space Tiger Team looks to take on many of the roles of a Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Systems Manager for Tactical Space; in other words, it will encompass and represent the "Army Space Forces" that include Army Space Support Teams, Commercial Exploitation Teams, Fires Brigade Space Operations Officers, and Space Support Elements at Division, Corps and Army Headquarters. Assuming the Army Campaign Plan remains on schedule, the Tactical

Space Tiger Team can anticipate fielding a total of 81 Tactical Space elements and teams, by the end of Fiscal Year 2009. This includes thirteen Space Operations Officers at Active Component and National Guard Fires Brigades.

## Tactical Space Tiger Team Missions

Currently the Tactical Space Tiger Team focuses primarily on the Tactical Space Operations Course, the Tactical Space Warfighter's Conference, training support to Space Support Elements in Mission Rehearsal Exercises and Command Post Exercises including Space Support Enhancement Toolset New Equipment Training, and proponency visits to units. This is mainly due to the tight original focus of the Space Support Element Tiger Team on rapidly fielding Divisional Space Support Elements, and partly due to the size of the Team. The Tiger Team currently consists of one lieutenant colonel, one GS-13, and two contractors, but the composition varies over time and they draw on the expertise of the entire Tactical Space community.

The emerging missions of the Tactical Space Tiger Team are expansive, potentially encompassing much of Army Space Forces training and doctrine development as a whole. While the Tactical Space Tiger Team will not be involved with Satellite Control, Space Control or Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTACS) interests, it will expand its scope to include the Doctrine, Organizations, Training, Leader Development, Materiel, Personnel and Facilities representation of all user requirements of not only Space Support Elements, but also Fires Brigade Space Operations Officers, Army Space Support Teams and eventually Commercial Exploitation Teams. The Tactical Space Tiger Team's expanded scope is similar to that of

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**Space Support Elements are small and yet very powerful tools that help the combatant commander better understand the battlespace.**



a TRADOC Systems Manager. It will include but not be limited to the following areas: representing force structure and organizational issues; assessing combat lessons; developing doctrine and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures; developing training requirements for both initial and sustainment training; developing and evolving materiel requirements; developing and evolving Leader Education requirements; developing and refining personnel requirements; and assisting other organizations with developing and refining reachback facilities. Material requirements will include the Space Support Enhancement Toolset, Eagle Vision II, and the Space Operations System. Training development will include contributions to Space training at Command and General Staff College and TRADOC centers and schools, Space training requirements at the Combat Training Centers, and a formal Tactical Space Operations Course. Personnel development will include Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) quantity and mix for Space forces, possible new Space Additional Skill Indicators, and potential requirements for a Space MOS. Facilities development will include assisting facilities such as the SMDC/ARSTRAT Operations Center to refine their capabilities and requirements to support Army Space cadre both within SMDC/ARSTRAT and across the Army.

## **Fielding Space Support Elements — Active Component Divisions**

To date, the Tactical Space Tiger Team has fielded SSEs to the following Active Component Divisions: 3rd Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), and 10th Mountain Division (L), which were fielded from late Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2005. Thus far every Space Support Element has served a rotation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, except for 10th Mountain Division (L), which is serving with the Joint Task Force headquarters in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom.

These Space Support Elements are bringing valuable lessons learned back to the Tactical Space Tiger Team. These lessons are being captured, digested, and taught to other Space professionals through the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course, the Tactical Space Operations Course, the Tactical Space Warfighter's Conference, and by integration into concepts and doctrine. The Team is currently in the process of fielding 1st Cavalry Division and 25th Infantry Division (L). The next Divisions to be fielded in order are 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 1st Armored Division, and 1st Infantry Division.

## **Fielding Space Support Elements — National Guard Divisions**

The Army National Guard is a key player in Army's Transformation to the Modular construct. The 34th Infantry Division (Minnesota Army National Guard) and 35th Infantry Division (Kansas Army National Guard) have begun fielding their Space Support Element organizations with one officer each assigned, and should receive their Space Support Enhancement Toolsets in 2007. LTC Kim Knur has been identified as the Space Support Element Leader for the 29th Infantry Division (Virginia Army National Guard). Both the 29th Infantry Division and the 42nd Infantry Division (New York Army National Guard) are scheduled for Space Support Element fielding in Fiscal Year 2006. When Space Support Element fielding to the 42nd Infantry Division commences, the Division will have recently returned from an Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation. National Guard Divisions remaining to transform and receive Space Support Elements are the 28th Infantry Division (Pennsylvania Army National Guard), the 40th Infantry Division in Fiscal Year 2007, the 38th Infantry Division (Indiana Army National Guard) and the 36th Infantry Division (Texas Army National Guard) in Fiscal Year 2008.



Left, SGT Tobias Mitchell prints off a satellite imagery map for use by planners. Providing hard copy imagery is only one aspect of the total capability the SSE brings to the Divisions; below, SGT Tobias Mitchell and SSG Ron Anglin monitor a Division equipment set. Though relatively small in size and manpower, the SSE provides a tremendous capability to support both planners and operators.



## Army and Corps Space Support Elements

3rd Army (USARCENT) will be the first Army headquarters to receive an SSE in June 2006. Fielding of SSEs to Armies will continue with 5th Army (USARNORTH) and 6th Army (USARSOUTH) in FY 2007 and 8th Army (USARPAC) and 7th Army (USAREUR) in Fiscal Year 2008. The Army level Space Support Element consists of six Soldiers — one colonel, two lieutenant colonels, two majors, and one staff sergeant — equipped with the two dismounted Space Support Enhancement Toolsets. The Army Space Support Element when fielded trained and equipped is capable of supporting the Army Service Component Command as well as extending Space planning and integration support to operational headquarters the Army may stand up. Although the Effective Dates are still pending, each Corps will eventually replace its lone Space Operation Officer with a Space Support Element consisting of five Soldiers — one lieutenant colonel, two majors, and two staff sergeants. This change will not only increase the capabilities of the Corps Space operations effort, but will also align the rank structure to be on par with the other Corps staff. Corps Space Support Elements are scheduled to receive mounted Space Support Enhancement Toolsets to match the mobility requirements of the headquarters.

## Fires Brigades

As the Army converts to the Fires Brigade concept, each Fires Brigade will receive a Space Operations Officer in the grade of major. The Fires Brigade Space Operations Officer is the central Space planner who integrates Space mission areas and effects into Fires Brigade plans, orders, and operations and advises the commander, staff, and subordinate units on Space support to Joint

Effects — precision lethal engagement and non-lethal effects — across the full spectrum of operations. Currently, the 4th Fires Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, has a Space Operations Officer who is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Five Active Component Fires Brigades remain to receive their Space Operations Officer; two in Fiscal Year 2006 and three in Fiscal Year 2007. Seven Army National Guard Fires Brigades activations are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2008.

## Training Programs and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures Development

Current training programs overseen by the Tactical Space Tiger Team include the pilot version of the Tactical Space Operations Course, the Tactical Space Warfighter's Conference, and Space Support Enhancement Toolset New Equipment Training. The Tiger Team conducted the week long Tactical Space Operations Course most recently in December 2005; the course is designed to teach Space Operations Officers, Army Space Support Team members, Space Support Element members, and other Army Space Soldiers skills pertinent to providing Space support to military operations at the tactical level. The Tactical Space Warfighter's Conference is transforming from annual week-long conference to a quarterly half-day conference in which Space Soldiers meet to exchange lessons learned, which then can rapidly flow into doctrine and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to be broadcast to all the Army Space Forces. Increasing Tactical Space Warfighter's Conferences to quarterly will substantially increase the velocity of gathering and learning lessons and expedite the cross-fertilization of those changes to Army Space professionals in SMDC/ARSTRAT and throughout the Army.



**The SSE Team in the photo to the left is assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. They provide direct Space support to the division commander and his staff.**

The Tactical Space Tiger Team developed Draft Division Space Operations Tactics, Techniques and Procedures, designed mainly for Division Space Support Elements in 2005 and the document is available at the team's Army Knowledge Online Knowledge and Collaboration Center along with numerous supporting documents and related briefing materials. The aforementioned Tactics, Techniques and Procedures document is valuable to the Fires Brigade Space Operations Officers, and any Soldier assigned to a Division or Brigade Combat Team. This spring, the Tactical Space Tiger Team will develop Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for the Army Headquarter Space Support Elements, and anticipates the document being ready in draft form in June for immediate use and validation by the new 3rd Army Space Support Element. Future efforts will include development of Mission Training Plans, Critical Task Lists, and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Corps Space Support Elements, Army Space Support Teams, and Commercial Exploitation Teams.

### **The Way Ahead**

The vision for the way ahead is for the Tactical Space Tiger Team to become TRADOC Systems Manager Tactical Space. To do this, it must become permanent, and acquire sufficient personnel with the required skill sets to be able to accomplish all TRADOC Systems Manager tasks in support of all tactical Space forces: Division, Corps, and Army Space Support Elements and the Corps and Army Space Operations Officers remaining through the transition period; 1st Space Brigade forces including Army Space Support Teams and Commercial Exploitation Teams; and Fires Brigade Space Operations Officers. In the meantime, Tactical Space Tiger Team will continue to educate, train, field, and sustain Army Space professionals throughout the Army.

1. According to TRADOC Regulation 71-12, TSMs "provide intensive management beyond the scope of the normal management resources available to the proponent for ... a materiel system, a family or a group of closely related/interdependent materiel systems that are being developed", or "Non-system training devices or training systems." Additionally, TSMs provide intensive, centralized, total system management and integration of all Doctrine, Organizations, Training, Leader Development, Materiel, Personnel and Facilities (DOTLMPF) considerations.

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